governing visitors from Bangladesh So as to contain the menace of infiltration into India and

(h) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Visa policy in respect of Bangladesh nationals is under constant review and whenever any change is deemed necessary, suitable action will be taken.

Arms dealers operating in the Capital

1060. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many arms dealers are operating in the Capital;

(b) since when they are operating; and

(c) what are the details of their past records

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM); (a,) to (c) Information about issue of dealership licences under the Arms Act, 1959 or details of their operation are not compiled by the Central Government. Dealership licences are issued and the operation of such licences are monitored by the State Governments [Union Territory Administrations to whom necessary powers in this behalf are delegated.

Sir Edmund Hillary's advice for the protection of the environment"

1061. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person who conquered Mount Everest has recently given an advice with regard to the protection of the environment of Everest, for putting restriction in the Himachal area and for imposing a total ban on the tourist traffic for a minimum period of five years; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Sir Edmund Hillary has recommended that tourism in the Himalayas should be sensibly controlled but not prohibited. At the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) Conference in Kathmandu, he put forward the suggestion that due to accumulation of rubbish and waste, the Mount Everest should be closed to the mountaineers for a five year period to enable the mountain to regenerate. Sir, Edmund Hillary has not given any suggestion specifically pertaining to Himachal Pradesh.

(b) In order to protect the environment of the ecologically fragile Himalayan areas, it is necessary that tourism in this area is well regulated; and, a number of measures have been taken by the concerned State Governments in this rgard. Directions have also been issued by the Government of India under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for regulating tourism in the Doon Valley.

Transfer of clerical staff from one bank to another

1062. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a set policy regarding the transfer of clerical staff of banks from one State to another and particularly